

Amendments to the CLAIMS

1. - 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A method for screening a chemical compound for activity in blocking the chloride channel ClC-7, which method comprises the following steps:

providing a test cell comprising one or more ClC-7 chloride channel expressed in osteoclasts and of the ClC family;

subjecting the test cell to the action of the chemical compound; and

measuring the ability of the chemical compound to block the ClC7 chloride channel, wherein the screening method identifies compounds having potential activity in treating osteoporosis, osteolytic cancer invasion, or Paget's disease of the bone.

10-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) A method for screening chemical compounds for potential activity in the treatment or alleviation of an osteoclast related bone disease in a subject, which method comprises

screening compounds in a test cell so as to select compounds having the ability to block the chloride channel ClC-7 expressed in osteoclasts and of the ClC family,

wherein the osteoclast related bone disease is osteoporosis, osteolytic cancer invasion, or Paget's disease of bone.

19. - 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, comprising screening the compounds so as to select compounds having the ability to block the chloride channel ClC-7 but

not having the ability to block a chloride channel selected from the group consisting of chloride channels C1C-1, C1C-2, C1C-4, C1C-5, C1C-Ka and C1C-Kb.

22. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, comprising screening the compounds so as to select compounds having the ability to block specifically the chloride channel C1C-7.

23. - 27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the screening method identifies compounds having potential activity in treating an osteoclast related bone disease.